



HARRIS' NEWS

APRIL 2011

"NEWS WORTH KNOWING"

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and input. As always, please feel free to contact me directly with your comments and questions concerning Milwaukee County!

Milwaukee County Board Committees

Economic & Community Development

Health & Human Needs

Transportation, Public Works, & Transit

Community Memberships

Youth Sports Authority Board

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Appointed Committees

Wisconsin Counties Association Constitution Committee

National Association of Young Black Elected Officials (NAYBEO) Chairwoman of Health and Human Service Committee

In this edition of Harris' News you will find:

Announcement...Announcement...Announcement!!!

*****Informational Session on Voter ID BILL*****

Monday, March 28, 2011 6-7:30pm

Morse- Marshall School 4141 N. 64th Street

- ❖ **Sup. Harris Voter ID Resolution Passes**
- ❖ **State Budget Affecting Milwaukee County**
- ❖ **Get out and Vote April 5th!**
- ❖ **2nd District Town Hall Meeting**
- ❖ **Free Tax Services by Milwaukee Asset Building Coalition**
- ❖ **Mayor Barrett's Summer Youth Employment Program**
- ❖ **Milwaukee Job Corps is Hiring!**

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Sup. Harris Voter ID Resolution Passes

I spearheaded my first piece of legislation by sponsoring a resolution to express opposition of any and all attempts to restrict an eligible individual's constitutionally guaranteed right to vote in Wisconsin. This proposed bill, which was presented by the State Senate, would require prospective voters to present certain photographic identification and provide a signature in order to cast a ballot in an election.

This would negatively impact Wisconsin's high voter participation and threaten to disenfranchise eligible voters. This Bill known as Senate Bill 6 would also:

- Require college or university students to purchase a government issued proof of Identification in order to vote
- Require absentee voters to submit photo ID to receive an absentee ballot, and submit copies of approved photo ID with completed ballots or the ballot will not be counted
- Increasing the residency requirement from 10 days to 28 days
- Eliminates use of corroboration as an alternative to providing initial proof of residence
- Places numerous new burdens on poll workers, many of whom are working long election days due to the lack of available poll workers

A 2005 study conducted at the University

Wisconsin- Milwaukee found that approximately half of all African-Americans and Hispanics in Wisconsin lack state-issued photo identification. The same study found more than 177,000 persons aged 65 and over who lack state-issued photo ID. The results of Senate Bill 6 would decrease revenue of \$3 Million dollars annually to the Department of Transportation.

During this month's Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting, I presented this resolution and provided testimony on how this bill would severely limit voters who are unable to get government issued photo ID. I also was joined by several County Employees from other departments who express their opposition of Senate bill 6. In addition, students from Urban Underground, League of Young Voters, Citizen Action of Wisconsin and a veteran spoke to committee members on how this bill would impact their voting rights. The committee approved the resolution during this meeting and, it was recently approved during the County Board meeting March 17.

As your elected County Representative, it was important to take a stand. Voting is a right guaranteed by the Constitution, and we must do everything we can to preserve that right. I'm pleased that the County Board has approved this resolution, and I hope the Legislature hears our voices and stops this bill in its tracks.

State Budget Impact affecting Milwaukee County

On March 1, 2011, Governor Walker introduced his proposed State Budget for the biennium. While his Budget Repair Bill included, **“The tools for local governments” his 2011-13 biennial budget includes major cuts to services and limits funding options while cutting shared revenue.**

Here are some preliminary areas of concern:

Juvenile Corrections Consolidated

The Governor’s budget consolidates juvenile offenders by closing Ethan Allen School in Waukesha County and moving all of the juveniles to Lincoln Hills School in Lincoln County. In addition, the budget directs the Department of Corrections to close Southern Oaks Girls School in Racine County and transfer the female juveniles to Copper Lake School at Lincoln Hills.

The consolidation avoids an expected 30% increase in the daily rate charged to County taxpayers for each juvenile that is sent to these institutions; it currently costs about \$100,000 per year per juvenile.

This issue affects all taxpayers and is important to our youth and communities. More than half of the juveniles in state institutions are from Milwaukee County, so we are paying for the inefficiency of the state operations. While I strongly preferred and advocated for the closing of Lincoln Hills (3 ½ hours away) and consolidation at Ethan Allen (45 minutes away), I am pleased that the Governor took action to close an institution – it will save Milwaukee County money.

Family Care Enrollment Capped

Family Care is a model program that has reduced costs for nursing home care by allowing many citizens to remain in a home setting with supportive services. It appears that enrollments may not be capped for the IRIS program (the state’s self-directed program) but would be capped for those seeking service through Milwaukee County. The Department of Health Services will not enroll more persons in care management organizations to receive the family care benefit

than the number of persons receiving the family care benefit in that county on June 20, 2011, or the effective date. This will most likely result in the creation of a waiting list for elderly and prevent the County from eliminating the wait list for persons with disabilities. For example, if the care management enrollment is capped at 100 persons to receive the family care benefit, no more than 100 persons can receive that benefit at the same time.

State Budget Impact affecting Milwaukee County

Cuts to Shared Revenue and Human Services

The State reduces Medical Assistance costs by \$500 million, however no detailed information is provided. Medical Assistance covers Badger Care, Senior Care and many programs to our Behavioral Health and Disabilities Services Division.

Funding for mental health and alcohol and drug abuse programs at our Behavioral Health Division is reduced by \$650,000 in 2011 and \$1.2 million in 2012.

State Shared revenue is reduced \$36.5 million for

counties State-Wide. It is likely Milwaukee County's revenue will be reduced by \$6-9 million in 2012 depending on the new formula.

****NO Tools for Local Governments****

Property tax increases are limited to the rate of net new construction, which grew at 0.657% in 2010. Estimates say that the 2012 property tax increase could be limited to \$2 million, severely below the cuts to services being proposed.

Transit Aid Cut

Cuts to Transit Aid overall are stated at 10%; in Milwaukee County these are estimated to reduce funding by nearly \$7 Million annually. To put that amount in relative perspective, Milwaukee County currently spends \$17.5 Million in property tax levy on transit. The magnitude of the funding problem is compounded by a strict tax levy freeze, depleted capital/operating reserves, rising fuel costs, and

ongoing needs to replace an aging fleet of 450

buses. The Governor has consistently fought against a modest dedicated sales tax to fund transit, which was approved by Milwaukee County voters in November 2008. Roads by contrast have been given increased funding without a referendum. This could result in route cuts and fare increases, the opposite of what we should be doing to grow our system and improve our infrastructure

Referenced Sources

The Governor's Proposed Budget [click here](#)

Wisconsin Counties Association [click here](#)

Wisconsin Department of Administration [click here](#)

Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Relations – Milwaukee County Department of Administration Report to IGR Committee March 14, 2011

Supervisor Lipscomb's and Dimitrijevic's Newsletter

Get Out and Vote April 5th!

Voting has always been important in the United States. With citywide elections coming up April 5, it is time to mark your calendar and plan to vote. This is your chance to let your voice be heard and make a difference. Please keep in mind that during this election, you **do not** need proof of identification to vote if you are already registered. The law has NOT changed. If you are requested by poll workers to show identification at your local polling location, please contact my office immediately, so I can alert the Milwaukee Election Commission. If you have questions on where to vote, please [click here](#).

2nd District Town Hall Meeting

On Wednesday, **April 13, 2011** at 6pm, the 2nd District Town Hall meeting will occur at **Parklawn YMCA 4340 N. 46th Street**. As your elected Milwaukee County representative, it is extremely important that I continue to keep my finger on the pulse of the community. If you are not able to attend feel free to contact me at my office, 278-4278, and let me know what issues are important to you. Thank you for all of your support and input. I look forward to hearing from you soon. To view the town hall postcard [click here](#).

Free Tax Services by Milwaukee Asset Building Coalition

Milwaukee County residents are building up their financial assets by getting their taxes done at no charge. The Milwaukee Asset Building Coalition (MABC) is again providing the free service at locations across the County. MABC is in its tenth season of doing state and federal tax forms for area residents. The coalition also has a Mobile Team of tax preparers who visit different sites during the week including Independence First, Vets Place Central, Goodwill Industries and the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center. Last tax season, MABC helped prepare more than 13,000 tax returns that brought back more than \$18-million in tax refunds and credits for local

families and individuals. The program also offers tax filers the opportunity to sign up for a traditional bank account that allows for direct deposit of refunds. Filers also can access many other valuable programs and services. For a complete list of free tax preparation site locations, hours of service, and what you will need to bring to get your taxes done, visit the Social Development Commission website, click on the Programs page, then on MABC, and then on the Flyer link. Or call 414-963-2694. To view the Social development website, please [click here](#)

Mayor Barrett's Summer Youth Internship Program

Mayor Tom Barrett's Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP) provides youth with employment and life skills and helps them meet educational, job readiness and career exploration goals. SYIP serves high school juniors and seniors between the ages of 16 and 19 (must be 16 by June 1st).

Interns earn \$7.25 an hour for 20 hours per week, with a maximum of 152 hours for the duration of the program.

All applicants must live in the designated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) area and meet specific school attendance requirements to be considered for a position.

The **2011 program runs from June 20 through August 12**. Participants must be able to work the

entire 8 week program time period. Attending summer school, summer camps, family reunions, etc., are not excused absences.

If you participated in the SYIP in the past, please apply for summer jobs through the Job Connection Program. Applicants are only allowed to participate in this program once.

All Applicants must submit their current school transcript with attendance information to: SYIP, 809 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202. The deadline for completed application is **FRIDAY, April 8, 2011 at 4:00pm.**

All Applications are done on-line. To apply, please [click here](#)

Milwaukee Job Corps is Hiring!

Are you looking for a job? If so, Job Corps is recruiting City of Milwaukee residents between the ages of 16-24 for their Medical Office Support, Nurse Assistant and Home Health Aide training programs. The average length of training programs varies 8 to 12 months. Milwaukee Job Corps has partnerships with employers so you can get real life work experience while training. For more information about Job Corps, your eligibility, and to begin the application process call (800)-733-5627, or to visit Job Corps website [click here](#)